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TECHNICAL REPORT ECOM-00032-3

INVESTIGATION  
OF THE QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION  
OF POINT AND AREAL PRECIPITATION  
BY RADAR ECHO MEASUREMENTS

INTERIM REPORT No. 3

By  
E. A. Mueller - A. L. Sims

June 1966

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**ECOM**

UNITED STATES ARMY ELECTRONICS COMMAND · FORT MONMOUTH, N.J.

Contract DA-28-043 AMC-00032(E)

ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY

at the  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois

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E. A. Mueller  
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PRECIPITATION BY

DEMCO

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1 October 1965 to 31 March 1966

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DA Project No. 1V0-14501-B-53A-07

Prepared by  
E. A. Mueller and A. L. Sims

ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY  
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U. S. ARMY ELECTRONICS COMMAND, FORT MONMOUTH, N. J.

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## ABSTRACT

The results of the drop size sample study indicate that volumes of about  $50 \text{ m}^3$  are necessary to estimate rainfall rate and radar reflectivity to 10 percent accuracy with 95 percent confidence. One-cubic-meter samples are sufficiently large that rainfall rate-radar reflectivity relationships can be reliably determined. The sample size variances contribute about 10 percent of the logarithmic scatter around the regression line.

Analysis of drop size data from Indonesia yielded a reflectivity rate relationship similar to that from Miami, Florida data but with less scatter. Five-minute rainfall rate frequencies from Indonesia were also similar to those from Florida.



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## SAMPLE SIZE

In order to better assess the accuracy of radar-rainfall relationships, a study of effects of sample size in the drop size distribution was initiated. Two objectives of this study were to determine the size of volume necessary to adequately describe the drop size distribution and to determine the uncertainty inherent in all previous drop size data which was collected using one cubic meter samples. Addressing the latter problem first, if a measure of the variance of the rainfall rate and radar reflectivity for a one-cubic-meter sample can be determined and if the scatter of points around the regression line of reflectivity of rainfall rate is normally distributed, a technique exists for removing the scatter due to sample size. The remaining scatter then becomes an estimate of the best accuracy in a radar measurement of rainfall rate. This portion of the problem has been solved subject to the assumption of normally distributed scatter of the points around the regression.

The size of the volume necessary to be sampled for a meaningful drop size distribution varies with the criteria for an adequate sample. The rainfall rate and radar reflectivity calculated from the drop size distribution have been used to characterize a distribution. The size of volume necessary to sample a distribution so that the calculated rate and reflectivity are obtained to a specified accuracy has been determined.



## Data Collection

To provide the data for this study two raindrop cameras were operated in close proximity and at as rapid a rate as possible. In this way there was some assurance that the same parent population of drop size spectra was being sampled. Each picture or frame represents nearly  $1/7$  cubic meter of space. The images of drops on each frame were measured and a distribution obtained for each  $1/7$  cubic meter. From this spectrum, the rainfall rate and radar reflectivity were calculated. The spectrum can be characterized by these two variables and if the accuracy of the reflectivity-rate relationship is of prime importance, the accuracy of these statistics is sufficient. There were  $8 \text{ m}^3$  of sample volume obtained for each minute. The cameras were operated during the summer of 1964 and 1965 on the East Central Illinois raingage network.

## Preliminary Data Processing

Eight minutes of data from the two cameras were grouped together to produce 448 individual  $1/7 \text{ m}^3$  samples or  $64 \text{ m}^3$  in all. There were 17 such groups. Considerably more data was collected but the restrictions of a group to an 8-minute sequence reduced the number of useable groups to 17.

The analysis was performed with and without a logarithmic conversion. Logarithmic conversion is desirable when interpreting the results on a logarithmic regression of R on Z. The natural numbers were used to compare the effects of the transformation and to estimate the volume necessary for accurate R and Z values.



This volume is related to the natural variability of raindrops in space.

During any eight-minute period, there is a high probability that there will be rainfall rate changes. This increases the variance of the sample and is not attributable to sample size. Therefore, the effects of time varying rate should be compensated. A number of methods were investigated and finally the choice was to treat each minute of data from each camera individually. If the variable of interest is denoted by  $X$ , a regression of  $X$  on time and a mean  $X$  for the 28 points were obtained.

$$\text{Let } X_R = \alpha + \beta t$$

$$\text{and } \bar{X} = \frac{1}{28} \sum X_i$$

be the regression line and the mean obtained. Provided that the logarithmic transformation was not used, a transformation of the individual values  $X_i$  to new values of  $Y_i$  was performed according to

$$Y_i = 1 + \frac{X_i - (\alpha + \beta t_i)}{\bar{X}}$$

Thus, the variables  $Y_i$  represent the deviations of the individual measurements from the time regression line measured in units of the mean. The value of 1 was added to the expression to adjust the mean of  $Y$  to one. It does not effect the variance of  $Y$ . Initially, a group of variables which did not exhibit high time correlation were to be transformed by changing units to units of the mean of the sample. This would produce a mean of the transformed sample of one. To make the two transformations compatible,





one is added to the time trend corrected transformation. After processing some data it was noted that if the time correlation was low the same results were obtained by both transformation schemes. Since the decision as to when the time correlation is significant is an arbitrary one, the data was all processed using the time regression method. In order to assess the value of the removal of time from the variance of one-frame samples, the storm of July 25, 1964 was analyzed separately. There were 14 minutes in which the rainfall rate had a time correlation coefficient less than 0.3. The average variance for this group was 0.1372 with individual values of variance running between 0.079 and 0.205. There were 10 points for which time trend correction was made. The average variance was reduced from 0.189 to 0.146 by the time trend removal. The range of variances for the non-corrected group was 0.091 to 0.319 and for the corrected group 0.079 to 0.210. It does not appear that removing the time variance is adversely affecting the residual variances. Periods in which no trend could be noted were still less variable than the time trend removed period.

It was noted in Interim Report No. 2, that the variance when measured in units of the mean are essentially constant with respect to rainfall rate. This is to say that the chance of estimating a 1.0 mm/hr rate as 1.4 mm/hr are the same as estimating a 100 mm/hr rate as 140 mm/hr. Since the logarithmic difference between these numbers is also constant, it is not necessary or desirable to measure logarithmic deviations in units of the mean. The transformation on all logarithmic variables was

$$Y_i = X_i - (\alpha + \beta t_i)$$



After these transformations had been made on the individual one minute samples, a group of eight minutes' data from both cameras were combined to produce a 448 row observational matrix.

Since both the rate and reflectivity are linear combinations of the drop size spectra, one may average the rainfall rates of two samples instead of averaging the distribution and recalculating a new rainfall rate. Thus, to determine the results of a sample volume of  $2/7 \text{ m}^3$ , a new data matrix can be formed. The terms of the new matrix are related to the original matrix by

$$b_n = \frac{a_n + a_{n+224}}{2} \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 224$$

This procedure mixes the sample considerably as the two portions  $a_n$  and  $a_{n+224}$  do not arise from the same minute or even necessarily the same camera. A combination scheme where

$$b_n = \frac{a_{2n} + a_{2n-1}}{2} \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 224$$

was also investigated. The latter combination does not change the variances of the  $2/7 \text{ m}^3$  sample significantly. The former technique was more easily programmed for larger combinations and was used throughout.

To achieve the larger sampling volumes, combinations of the 1-frame samples were made using

$$b_n = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=n}^{n+N-1} a_{[i + (i-n)(\frac{448}{N})]}$$

where  $N = 2, 4, 7, 14, 28, 56$

and  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \frac{448}{N}$

As was pointed out in Interim Report No. 2, when the volume is larger than  $4/7 \text{ m}^3$  the observational points tend to distribute normally.



## Results for Size of Sample

Figure 1 is the result of this analysis for the 17 groups of data and with rainfall rate as the statistic of interest. The two extreme curves are plotted on this figure along with one-half of the remaining groups. As expected the sample variance reduces as the sample volume increases. The decrease follows approximately an inverse law. Since the populations tend to normality for sample volumes larger than  $0.5 \text{ m}^3$ , this result is to be expected. The average variance of the one-cubic-meter sample is 0.137. This can be interpreted that a spectrum determined from a  $1 \text{ m}^3$  sample will estimate the rainfall rate to within  $\pm 70$  percent of the mean value, 90 percent of the time. It should be noted that the minimum variance curve on Figure 1 happened to be the first storm analyzed and was reported on in the previous interim report. The values reported in that report must be considered as over optimistic when the remainder of the data is considered.

Since the variances decrease inversely as the volume sampled, the average variance for any sample greater than  $8 \text{ m}^3$  can be estimated by

$$\text{var } R = \frac{0.096}{V}$$

where  $V$  is the volume sampled in  $\text{m}^3$ . To obtain an estimate of the rainfall rate which would be within  $\pm 10$  percent of the "true" value 95 percent of the time, would require a sample of  $43.6 \text{ m}^3$ . A volume of this size is certainly difficult to sample using known drop sizing techniques but the radar samples a much larger volume easily.



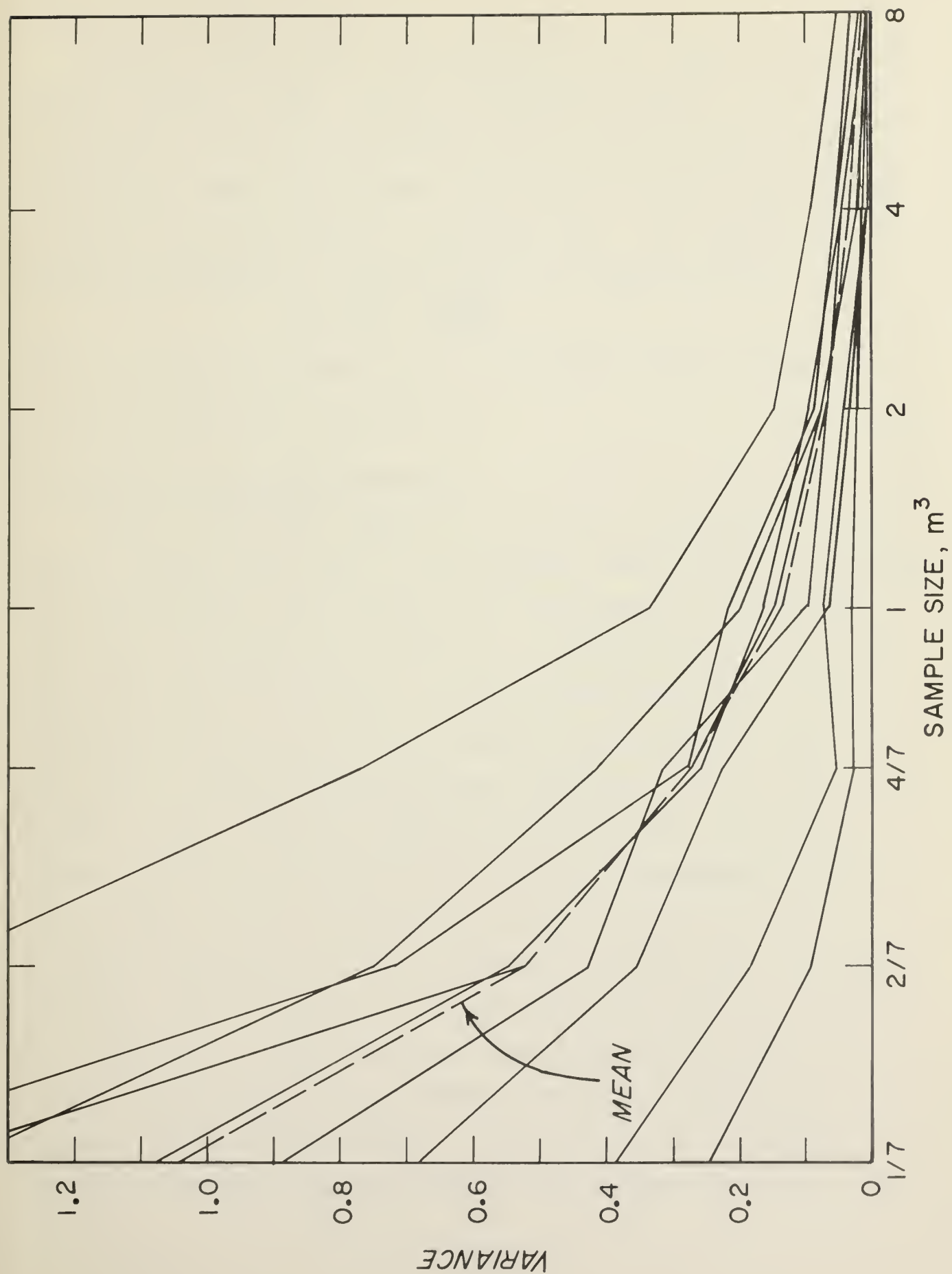


Figure 1. Variance of Rainfall Rate with Sample Size





Similar results have been obtained for the radar reflectivity. Figure 2 shows the same groups as plotted in Figure 1. The total variance for any particular sample size is always greater for the reflectivity than for the rate. This is due to the higher sensitivity of the reflectivity to sampling error. The equation relating the variance of reflectivity, Z, to sample size is

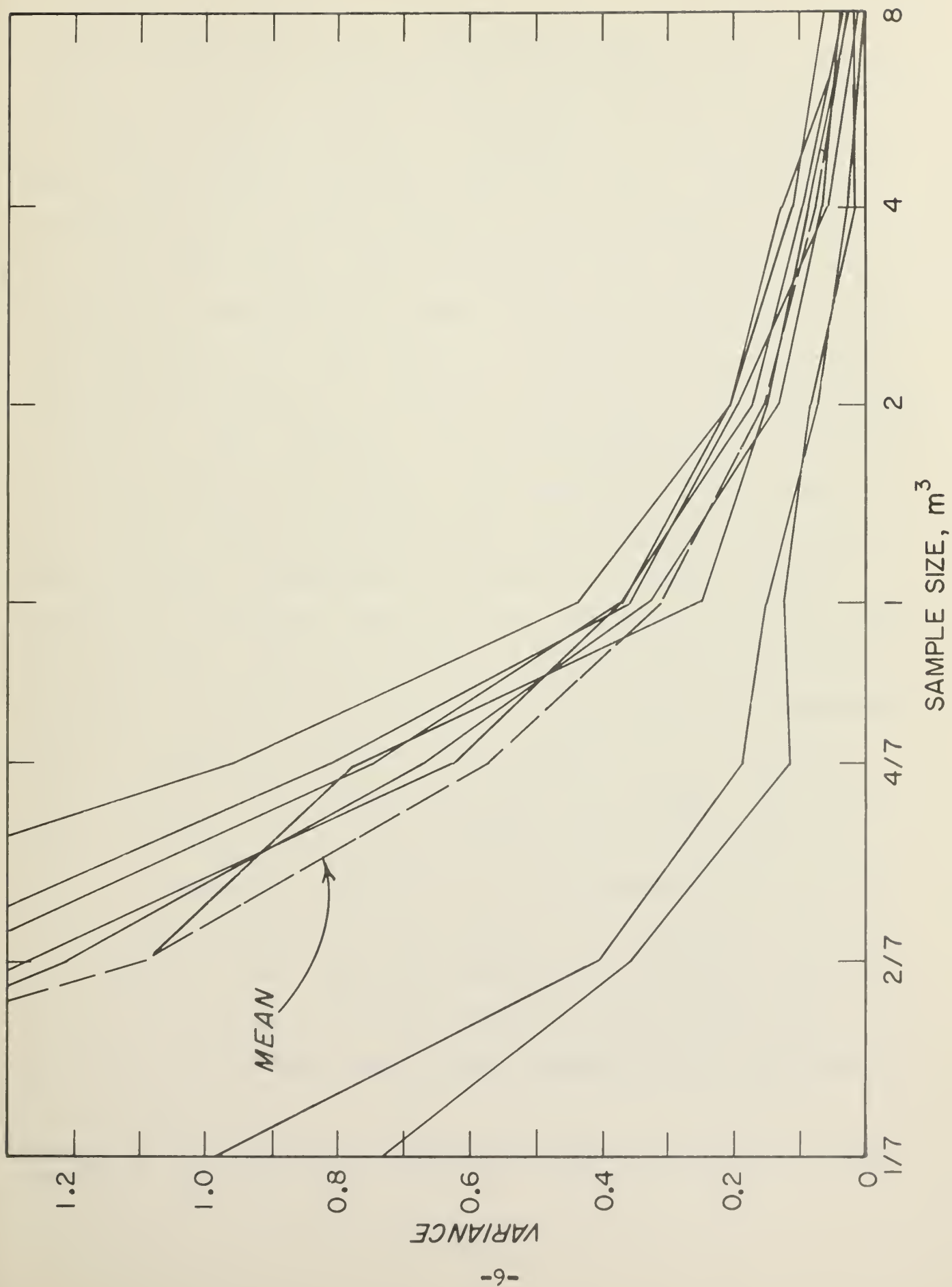
$$\text{var } Z = \frac{0.192}{\sqrt{N}}$$

Thus, to attain the same level of confidence twice as large a volume is necessary to estimate Z.

### Reduction of Regression Variances

The most important aspect of this study was to assess the effects of sample size error on the probable error of the reflectivity-rate relationship. The errors in the measurement of individual R-Z data points can be attributed to a number of causes. Some of these are sample volume error, optical error such as poor focus or drops drifting too far into tunnels, measuring error, and error due to changing meteorological conditions. Due to the observable large changes in drop size distributions, it had been assumed that of these errors the error due to inadequate sample volume would be large compared to the other errors. As the calculations proceeded the size of variances obtained from the sample size data tended to support this hypothesis when only one variable was considered. It was noted that the R and Z errors were not in fact independent and more powerful statistical techniques were needed to evaluate the results. A brief review of the methods are presented and for a more detailed and complete exposition the







reader is referred to Acton.\* The method used is similar in nature to that which Acton calls "The 99.44 Percent Pure Extractor."

The problem becomes one of estimating in a large sample how much of the variance around the regression line is likely to be contributed by the probable error in the measurements of  $R'$  and  $Z'$ . The primes denote common logarithms of the variables. The logarithmic transformation permits straight line approximation of the regression line. The scatter of points after the logarithmic transformation appear to be equal for all values of the independent variable  $Z'$ . This property, called homoscedasticity, is necessary for this method to be reliable. Unfortunately there are few if any critical tests for this property and in this case none have been performed. Examination of plotted  $R' - Z'$  graphs and the qualitative observation that the scatter does not vary with  $Z'$  has been performed. Another assumption necessary for the proper application of this theory is that the scatter around the regression line is normally distributed. This assumption can be replaced by at least two others which will affect the results. The alternative assumptions which can be handled with present theory are that if sufficiently accurate  $R' - Z'$  measurements had been made, (1) the points would all be on a line or (2) the points would lie on a quadratic line. The first assumption is obviously incorrect. For if this were so, all of the scatter of points would have to be ascribed to measurement error. Then estimates of the measurement

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\* Acton, F. S., Analysis of Straight Line Data, John Wiley & Sons, New York 1959



error by the results of an  $R' - Z'$  regression and from the changing volume should be equal. Since this is not true, this assumption has been discarded. The second assumption, namely the quadratic underlying assumption, may in some cases of drop size data be realistic. Usually, however, there is very little data to support any bending of the  $R' - Z'$  line. Unfortunately the scatter of points around the  $R' - Z'$  line do not distribute strictly normally. With a sample from a data location, such as Miami, with 2400 data points the distribution is not normal. This is indicative that nature produces the same rainfall rate using a variety of distributions and there is not a tendency for one type to predominate. Despite the inadequacy of this assumption, it is invoked for this study.

The statistical measure of the scatter of points around the regression is the standard error. The square of this term is the variance of the deviations around the regression line. For example this variance ranged from 0.0161 to 0.0353 for the Miami drop size data when synoptic sorting was performed. The non-stratified data had a variance of 0.0392. One may be tempted to examine the variance of  $R'$  for the one cubic meter sample and expect that this variance can be subtracted from the variance around the regression line to leave the unexplained variance. The average variance of  $R'$  for one cubic meter sample is 0.0612. This would result in a negative variance of considerable size. The difficulty that is made obvious by this exercise is that the sampling error of  $R'$  is correlated with the sampling error of  $Z'$ .





Since both of these parameters have been computed from the drop size distribution, it is not surprising that such correlation exists. Qualitatively, the correlation of errors of  $R'$  and  $Z'$  tend to be such that if a line is passed through the subgroup of  $R'$  and  $Z'$  points from the sample size, the line would be nearly parallel to the  $R'$  and  $Z'$  regression line. In other words a part of sampling error is not reflected in scatter around the regression line. To determine the amount of the error variance which contributed to the scatter, the following technique may be used. This technique consists of variable transformation by axis rotation such that the error variances are no longer correlated. At the same time the regression line must be transformed and the variances around the new line determined.

A variable transformation of the following form is applied to the data:

$$v = y - b_0 x$$

$$u = y - (p + b_0) x$$

where  $b_0$  is the regression coefficient of the data

$$\text{and } p = \frac{b_0^2 - 2r \frac{S_\eta}{S_\xi} b_0 - \left(\frac{S_\eta}{S_\xi}\right)^2}{r \frac{S_\eta}{S_\xi} - b_0}$$

where  $r$  = correlation coefficient of errors in  $R'$  and  $Z'$

$S_\eta$  = the error variance of  $Z'$

$S_\xi$  = the error variance of  $R'$

In the transformed  $u$  and  $v$  variables the error terms are uncorrelated and an estimate of the relative importance of the error variance can be made. Table 1 shows the results of this analysis for a number of locations and separations.



TABLE 1

COMPARISONS OF VARIANCES OF R' - Z' REGRESSION  
AND VARIANCES ATTRIBUTABLE TO SAMPLE SIZE

Data Location	Logarithmic Regression Variance	Transformed Sample Size Variance	Percentage of Regression Variance Explained by Sample Size	Corrected Standard Error of Estimate	90% Confidence Limits from Mean Rate in Percent
Florida	0.0392	0.00277	7	0.191	51 106
Marshall Islands	0.0289	0.00442	15	0.156	45 80
Oregon	0.0185	0.00216	12	0.128	39 62
Indonesia	0.0216	0.00267	12	0.138	41 69
Alaska	0.0202	0.00209	10	0.135	40 67
N. Carolina	0.0292	0.00306	10	0.162	46 85
Florida					
Continuous	0.0350	0.00421	12	0.175	49 94
Showers	0.0342	0.00234	7	0.178	49 96
Thunderstorms	0.0361	0.00217	6	0.184	50 101
Oregon					
Continuous	0.0177	0.00214	12	0.125	38 60
Showers	0.0182	0.00218	12	0.127	38 62
Thunderstorms	0.0079	0.00215	27	0.076	25 33
Marshall Islands					
Continuous	0.0339	0.00244	7	0.177	49 95
Showers	0.0199	0.00287	14	0.130	39 64
Average			11.6	43	73



Examination will reveal that the contribution to the total variance by the variance of the sample size is small. In general, only about 10 percent of the total variance can be attributed to sample size when a one-cubic-meter sample of drops was obtained. In one sense this is encouraging in that the samples that have been obtained appear to be quite adequate in terms of the volume sampled to determine realistic estimations of the  $R' - Z'$  relationship. On the other hand the magnitude of the remaining variances is larger than might be desired for reliable estimation of rainfall rate from a radar. The last two columns show the 90 percent confidence limits of the estimated limits of accuracy of the rainfall rate measurement from a single reflectivity measurement with the radar. Although these limits as calculated appear to be non-symmetric, they are symmetric after the logarithmic transformation. Thus, the error in a single radar measurement will be confined to within 43 percent low to 73 percent high 90 percent of the time. These limits appear quite large, but about the same size that has been frequently observed with a radar set. Since the scatter does appear to be quite random, the total storm amount predicted by a radar may well be much more accurate as averaging of this random error would take place. However, since the scatter appears more symmetric after logarithmic transformation, there will be some bias in the time integrated rates or amounts.

#### ANALYSIS OF BOGOR, INDONESIA DATA

All of the Indonesia drop size data were used in a calculation of an  $R-Z$  relationship which may be useful in other similar areas



in Southeast Asia. No stratification of this data has been attempted. The overall relationship was found to be

$$Z = 311 R^{1.44}$$

using a logarithmic least squares fit with Z as the independent variable. This is quite similar to the "all data" relationship for Miami, Florida, which was found to be  $Z = 286 R^{1.43}$ . Figure 3 shows the R-Z points from the Indonesia data. The scatter of points is somewhat less than the scatter of points for Miami even though the relationship is similar. The standard error of estimate is 0.147 for Indonesia and 0.198 for Miami.

The raingage data obtained in Indonesia while the drop camera was there have been analyzed for frequency of 5-minute amounts. A frequency distribution of rates calculated from the 5-minute amounts is plotted in Figure 4. A total of 135 hours of rain of rates equal to or greater than 0.12 inches per hour is included in the frequency distribution. These data were obtained during a period of approximately 17 months from 31 October 1959 through 11 April 1961. A small amount of data was missed during this period, due to gage malfunctions and other reasons.

#### ANALYSIS OF NEW JERSEY AND NORTH CAROLINA DATA

The data from New Jersey and North Carolina have been carefully edited. Some dates and times have been found to be in error as indicated by the logs and raingage traces; these errors have been corrected.





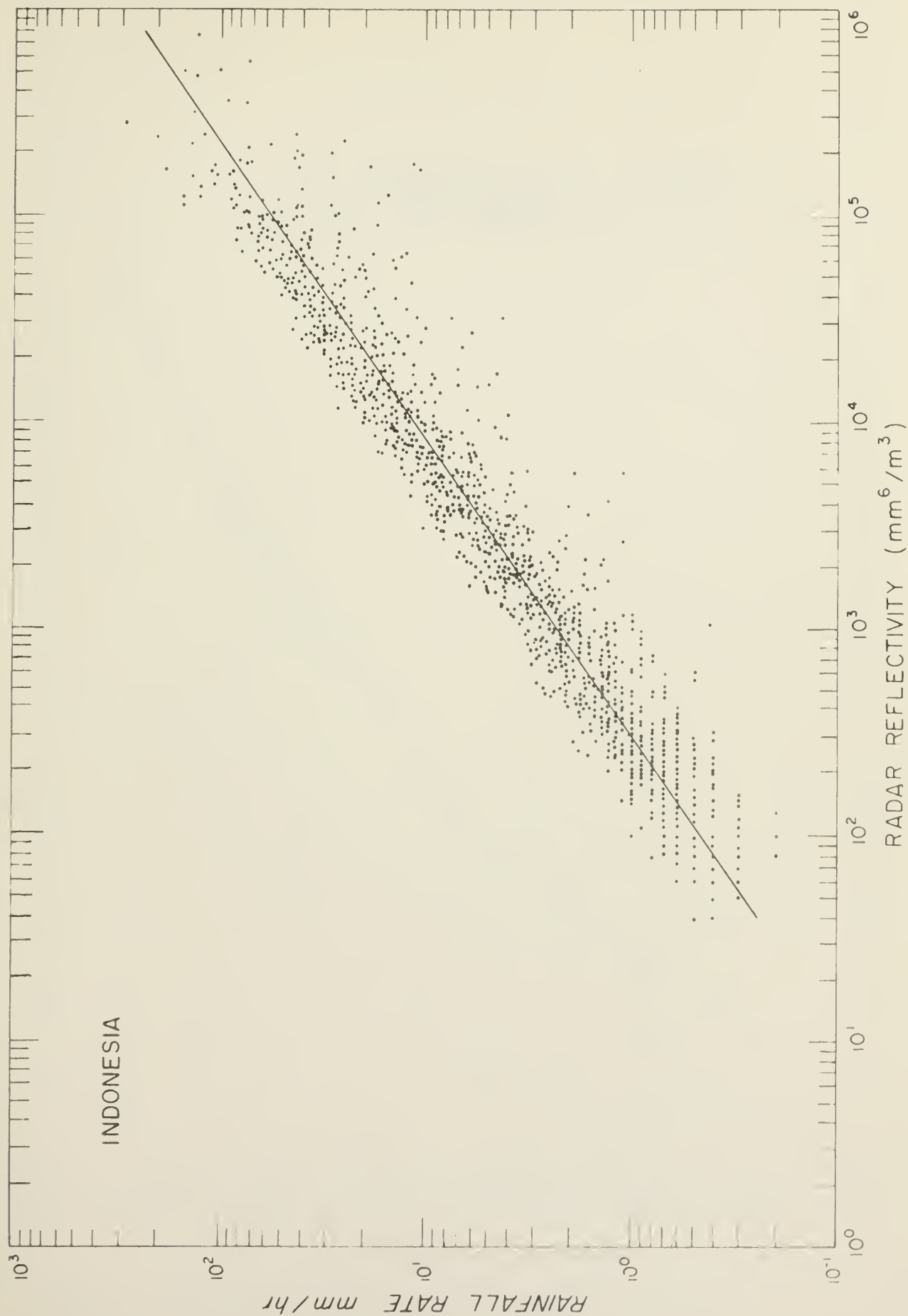


Figure 3. RAINFALL RATE - RADAR REFLECTIVITY SCATTERGRAM FOR INDONESIA DATA



PERCENT OF RAIN TIME THAT EQUALS OR EXCEEDS ABSCISSA RATE

TOTAL OBSERVATION TIME: 135 HOURS  
IN THE PERIOD  
31 OCTOBER 1959 THROUGH 11 APRIL 1961

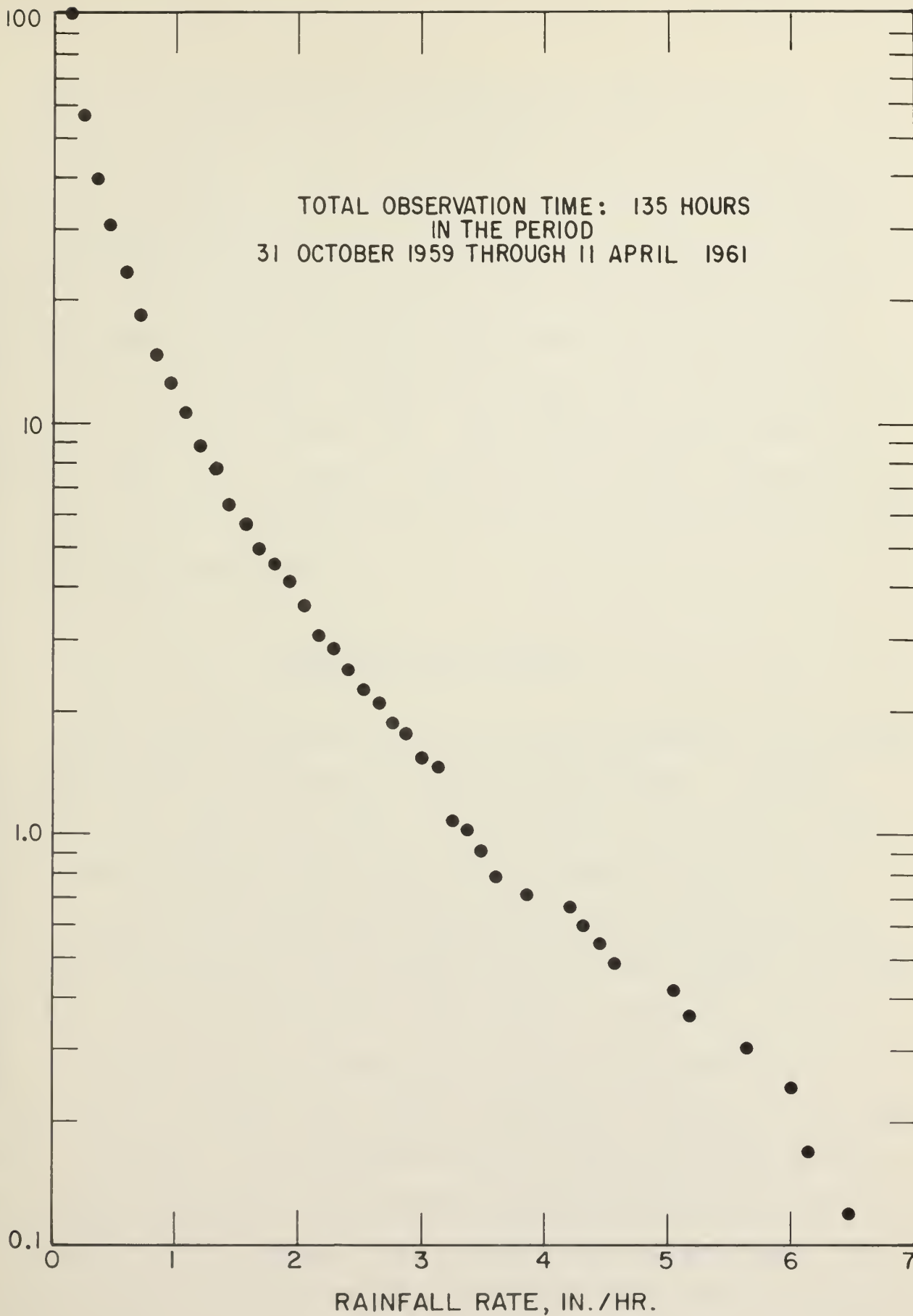


Figure 4. Frequency of Rainfall Rates Based on 5-minute Amounts from Bogor, Indonesia



Synoptic types have been determined for these stations. Also, instability indices have been calculated from radiosonde observations taken in the vicinity of the cameras. This required reprogramming of the computer program, since the program previously used was for a computer not now available. The New York City soundings have been used in conjunction with the New Jersey data. Both Greensboro, North Carolina and Athens, Georgia soundings have been analyzed for use with the North Carolina data. The stability indices and the synoptic types will be added to the drop data cards. Separation of the data by these parameters will be performed and reflectivity-rate relationships determined.

#### DROP-SIZE DATA REPORTS

Preparations of bound publications which summarize the raindrop distributions for all locations sampled are underway. Research Report No. 9B, dated June 1962, is an example of the type of data to be presented, this report being for the Miami, Florida data. Since at some of the locations, particularly North Carolina, much more data was obtained than at Miami, other report formats are being examined. If the approximately 4800 samples from North Carolina were to be printed as in Report 9B, a report measuring  $8\frac{1}{2}$  by 14 inches, and 1.4 inches thick would be required, a report of some 535 pages. Therefore, it is proposed that the data be printed out in such a format that the output, after being reduced about  $\frac{1}{2}$ , will fit on an  $8\frac{1}{2}$  x 11 inch page. Such a format would require only 150 pages for North Carolina, so that the report would have a thickness



of only 3/8 in., about half the thickness of Report 9B. The other locations would require proportionately thinner reports, as the numbers of samples are less.

A computer program has been written for printing out this data. By using the computers, rather than the tabulating machine used on Report 9B, it has been possible to use a format for the summary and distribution data in which many of the parameters are labeled, making it easier to locate desired items of information. A preliminary sample of the printed output is shown in Figure 5. In this example the date and time are easily identifiable. Synoptic type will remain as coded numbers but the second column after time, rain type, will be changed to either R, RW, or TRW. The radar reflectivity, rainfall rate, radar attenuation, liquid water content, median volume diameter, and total concentration are each identified by the letters Z, R, Q, L, DL, and NT, respectively. The numbers of drops follow in 0.1 mm intervals. The second and third lines will be printed only if there is one or more non-zero entries. It is felt that the newer format will be easier to use as well as considerably less expensive than the method used in Report 9B.

#### INTERMEDIATE RANGE RAINGAGE NETWORK

The 15 raingages to be furnished under this contract have been received. Mounting bases for these gages are being fabricated. Site selection and installation of gages will be done in April.





6JUN59 1630	70	4	K=65.4	Z=5.54E 04	C=315	L=3.18	DL=1.9	NT=1755	53	84	156	187	195	187	126	112	88	72
64 45 63	52	65	46	42 17 26 16	14	8 12 9 5	4 3 1	C 2 1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8JUN59 1136	40	9	K=70.3	Z=0.11E 04	C=340	L=3.61	DL=2.0	NT=1494	9	44	87	140	98	164	85	90	82	65
67 71 51	70	70	71	61 43 35 23	18	12 10 11 6	3 0 2	C 0 0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20JUN59 1040	70	4	K=81.2	Z=7.83E 04	C=526	L=3.62	DL=2.3	NT=1778	72	138	201	286	181	207	98	77	46	39
36 25 28	31	28	41	36 31 26 30	31	20 14 17 12	8 6 2	3 2 2	C	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20JUN59 1046	70	4	K=70.8	Z=4.70E 04	C=263	L=3.55	DL=1.8	NT=1714	0	11	44	124	143	232	142	124	113	113
93 100 89	75	77	70	59 37 11 22	12	8 5 2 3	1 0 1	A 0 0 0	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22JUN59 1040	40	5	K=72.0	Z=5.46E 04	C=306	L=3.50	DL=1.9	NT=1566	0	11	24	105	136	240	155	102	76	88
112 74 66	69	68	56	45 37 23 23	18	10 10 8 6	1 1 2	C 0 0 0	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27JUN59 1018	40	5	K=61.7	Z=3.47E 04	C=194	L=3.21	DL=1.7	NT=1552	2	6	19	72	46	105	187	170	152	151
119 85 102	102	70	62	42 23 16 8	5	1 2 0 0	C 0 0 0	C 0 1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3JUL59 0930	50	4	K=81.4	Z=9.43E 04	C=490	L=3.82	DL=2.1	NT=1980	36	62	125	175	204	233	211	219	155	103
71 55 36	38	25	31	27 30 34 17	12	20 14 13 7	4 3 4	1 4 3	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
3JUL59 0931	50	4	K=80.1	Z=6.15E 04	C=348	L=4.02	DL=1.8	NT=2199	40	89	102	189	149	232	234	207	165	142
117 75 72	80	58	55	51 52 26 19	5	9 8 2 5	2 2 1	4 1 1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3JUL59 0932	50	4	K=95.2	Z=1.04E 05	C=591	L=4.19	DL=2.2	NT=1340	24	32	46	65	90	137	111	91	72	72
50 44 60	67	47	56	47 40 28 30	15	23 26 21 11	8 10 4	5 1 2	C	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4JUL59 1347	40	4	K=87.6	Z=1.01E 05	C=544	L=3.91	DL=2.2	NT=1454	16	54	84	125	111	135	108	101	81	77
64 66 49	46	50	40	46 28 37 32	29	12 13 11 7	9 5 4	4 3 0	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
25JUL59 1243	50	4	K=90.6	Z=1.36E 05	C=568	L=4.07	DL=2.2	NT=1604	43	76	111	127	120	149	104	91	82	89
85 60 75	56	55	39	39 33 37 27	28	18 15 9 15	3 6 2	3 1 2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
18AUG59 1240	40	9	K=75.0	Z=6.12E 04	C=349	L=3.67	DL=1.9	NT=1825	0	0	18	91	203	395	228	157	104	90
74 56 58	61	60	44	38 22 28 23	17	17 17 9 7	3 2 1	1 1 0	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21AUG59 1945	40	5	K=65.4	Z=3.57E 04	C=197	L=3.30	DL=1.8	NT=1217	0	0	0	0	0	6	46	52	62	97
123 153 137	168	98	75	32 24 11 10	4	2 1 0 0	C 0 0 0	C 0 0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22AUG59 1014	50	7	K=80.2	Z=7.06E 04	C=384	L=3.83	DL=2.0	NT=1762	6	30	74	171	129	263	158	120	93	66
109 87 75	82	42	43	48 39 26 26	24	13 8 14 5	4 2 2	0 0 1	C	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
22AUG59 1016	50	4	K=73.7	Z=6.51E 04	C=294	L=4.01	DL=1.6	NT=3913	104	274	643	700	612	386	304	179	124	95
85 61 53	41	34	45	46 35 31 15	15	11 7 5 1	2 3 0	C 1 0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22AUG59 1017	50	4	K=69.2	Z=0.46E 04	C=353	L=3.53	DL=1.8	NT=2522	10	55	189	437	420	288	293	146	134	91
84 64 54	48	37	42	24 25 9 10	12	9 8 8 4	7 5 3	1 0 1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
23AUG59 1532	50	4	K=135.0	Z=1.31E 05	C=711	L=6.04	DL=2.1	NT=1654	0	0	0	4	13	130	150	121	118	86
101 98 104	138	80	119	92 2 81 69	45	28 27 15 7	11 6 2	2 2 1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
23AUG59 1533	50	4	K=102.3	Z=9.47E 04	C=520	L=4.56	DL=2.2	NT=1151	0	0	0	1	3	53	69	73	82	73
61 75 80	106	52	98	62 65 47 39	27	18 26 15 3	2 5 2	2 1 0	C	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23AUG59 1534	50	4	K=137.4	Z=1.33E 05	C=741	L=6.08	DL=2.2	NT=1517	0	0	0	0	1	48	82	117	120	92
88 135 120	130	76	85	89 54 49 74	25	34 34 20 16	9 8 2	2 2 0	C	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23AUG59 1535	50	4	K=134.8	Z=1.32E 05	C=746	L=6.06	DL=2.1	NT=1689	1	0	0	2	6	50	118	148	153	144
135 139 138	119	89	89	69 57 49 34	27	32 24 16 18	6 5 12	5 1 1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23AUG59 1536	50	4	K=170.7	Z=1.86E 05	C=1010	L=7.52	DL=2.2	NT=2021	0	0	1	4	4	140	181	197	146	142
115 144 157	132	91	91	78 69 52 54	45	42 39 30 21	8 11 6	6 1 2	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
23AUG59 1710	50	4	K=71.1	Z=7.11E 04	C=387	L=3.34	DL=2.0	NT=1531	34	172	126	63	74	101	101	104	107	102
71 77 79	67	42	48	25 34 21 22	14	14 6 4 2	5 3 1	3 2 2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23AUG59 1711	50	4	K=82.0	Z=6.40E 04	C=350	L=3.80	DL=2.0	NT=1108	0	0	0	2	2	50	59	84	76	96
82 92 82	127	42	69	54 46 38 39	21	19 17 9 1	1 0 0	0 0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1SEP59 1533	50	4	K=62.4	Z=8.04E 04	C=426	L=2.64	DL=2.3	NT=588	0	0	1	8	8	39	36	30	30	42
34 32 33	45	35	37	36 27 16 18	14	12 5 13 12	5 5 4	3 2 1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1SEP59 1534	50	4	K=88.7	Z=1.65E 05	C=590	L=3.80	DL=2.2	NT=888	0	0	0	1	0	33	28	56	64	78
76 83 54	87	51	53	55 31 31 20	16	10 14 8 10	8 3 5	2 2 1	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0 0 0 0	1 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
1SEP59 1535	50	4	K=151.3	Z=4.23E 05	C=1341	L=6.16	DL=2.9	NT=2031	0	0	13	80	212	390	308	217	162	124
87 77 44	36	27	31	15 11 21 20	10	11 11 10 12	10 9 4	8 9 7	8	8	6	4	2	3	2	2	1	1
1 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
1SEP59 1555	50	4	K=73.8	Z=7.76E 04	C=404	L=3.51	DL=2.0	NT=1900	26	133	183	215	176	211	148	97	83	99
80 62 75	57	48	46	30 16 23 19	14	9 10 6 6	6 3 2	1 3 1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1SEP59 1556	50	4	K=89.7	Z=6.50E 04	C=370	L=4.67	DL=1.8	NT=3488	7	80	413	622	533	464	256	170	130	115
108 94 90	72	73	67	46 36 28 15	22	16 10 8 6	2 0 2	1 1 0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1SEP59 1557	50	4	K=68.4	Z=4.54E 04	C=253	L=3.49	DL=1.8	NT=2122	152	183	138	138	137	226	166	124	132	102
98 82 79	65	79	58	54 38 23 21	12	5 2 3 1	2 1 0	0 0 0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1SEP59 1604	50	4	K=87.2	Z=7.17E 04	C=398	L=4.19	DL=1.9	NT=1704	0	8	28	75	113	191	143	124	134	153
121 93 83	79	75	60	57 50 26 25	23	11 8 6 4	4 2 1	2 1 2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1SEP59 1605	50	4	K=87.6	Z=8.03E 04	C=452	L=4.12	DL=2.0	NT=1744	2	9	37	136	196	241	146	98	100	80
92 76 66	80	84	64	32 33 36 31	14	14 6 11 12	9 3 2	3 1 0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 5. Sample Page from Planned Raindrop Data Reports



The network is to be established in an area approximately 75 miles from the radar, near Kankakee, Illinois, and will be known as the Kankakee Raingage Network. Other networks are already in operation at 25 to 35 miles and at approximately 150 miles. With the addition of this new network, areal radar and rainfall measurements can be obtained from three ranges, making it possible to determine the accuracy of radar-rainfall measurements as a function of range.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The volume sample size study has been completed. The results of this study indicate that the one-cubic-meter volume of sample used in past data collections is adequate for proper determination of the rainfall rate-radar reflectivity relationship. Only about 10 percent of the variance in the relationship can be properly attributed to the size of the volume sampled. The study also indicates that a relatively large volume of natural rainfall must be sampled to reliably estimate the value of rainfall rate or reflectivity from a drop size spectrum. The natural variability of raindrops requires samples on the order of  $50 \text{ m}^3$  to estimate the parameters to within 10 percent of the mean 95 percent of the time.

The Indonesia data has been examined and a reflectivity-rate relationship determined. Of the areas sampled with a drop camera climatic conditions in Indonesia most nearly approximate the climate of South Viet Nam; this relationship is recommended for any radar weather work performed in that area. An analysis of frequency of



rainfall rates from the raingage was performed. This data provides some estimate of the importance of rain attenuation under these climatic conditions.

The dropsizes data from New Jersey and North Carolina have been edited and typed with respect to thermodynamic instability and synoptic types. This completes the typing for all drop size data that can be typed.

A format for the data printouts has been designed and it is recommended for use in the data printouts which will be performed.



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13 ABSTRACT The results of the drop size sample study indicate that volumes of about 50m <sup>3</sup> are necessary to estimate rainfall rate and radar reflectivity to 10 percent accuracy with 95 percent confidence. One-cubic-meter samples are sufficiently large that rainfall rate-radar reflectivity relationships can be reliably determined. The sample size variances contribute about 10 percent of the logarithmic scatter around the regression line. Analysis of drop size data from Indonesia yielded a reflectivity rate relationship similar to that from Miami, Florida data but with less scatter. Five-minute rainfall rate frequencies from Indonesia were also similar to those from Florida.			



## KEY WORDS

Precipitation  
 radar measurements  
 raindrop data  
 rainfall rate  
 drop-size studies  
 weather radar

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